

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: REFERENDUM DEVELOPMENTS

SUMMARY: ASU SECGEN DENIES RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED
ON POLITICAL PARTIES. JOURNALISTS UNDER INTERROGATION
(AND OTHERS) WILL HAVE ACCESS TO COURTS. LEFT "UNFREEZES"
ITSELF; AL AHALI REPORTEDLY TO REAPPEAR. DESPITE
GOVERNMENT HOPES, POLITICAL DEBATE CONTINUES, ALBEIT
AT LOWER LEVEL THAN PRIOR TO CRACKDOWN. END SUMMARY.

1. MUSTAFA KHALIL. RETURNING FROM VISIT TO LONDON,
ASU SECGEN MUSTAFA KHALIL TOLD PRESS JULY 9 THAT NO
RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED ON FORMATION OF PARTIES SO
LONG AS THEY MEET CONDITIONS SET BY LAW. KHALIL
DENIED RESTRICTIONS WILL BE PLACED ON PRESS, NOTING
ONLY JOURNALISTS UNDER INTERROGATION ARE THOSE BEING
ACCUSED OF WRITING DEFAMATORY ARTICLES ABROAD. SEC-
GEN SAID RESULTS OF INTERROGATION WILL BE REFERRED
TO PRESS COUNCIL WHICH, IN TURN, WILL ISSUE REPORT TO PRESS
SYNDICATE. JOURNALISTS, KHALIL ARGUED, WILL HAVE
RIGHT TO PROTEST ANY DECISION TO STATE COUNCIL AND
WILL ENJOY RIGHT OF APPEAL BEFORE COURT. KHALIL DENIED
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COMMUNISTS WILL BE PUNISHED BUT ADMITTED THEY WILL BE
TRANSFERRED AND DEMOTED TO LESS SENSITIVE POSTS. SAME
ACTION, REPORTEDLY WILL BE TAKEN WITH COMMUNIST PUBLIC
SECTOR EMPLOYEES, WHO KHALIL SAID WILL BE DEMOTED BY
CABINET DECISION.

2. LEFT. JULY 10 RIGHTIST WEEKLY AHRAR REPORTED LEFT

PARTY MET PREVIOUS DAY TO "UNFREEZE" ITS ACTIVITIES IN ORDER PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE. ACCORDING AHRAR, LEFTIST WEEKLY AHALI WILL RESUME PUBLICATION JULY 13, WITH LUTFI WAKID AS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IN PLACE OF PARTY LEADER KHALID MOHIE EL DIN. MOHIE EL DIN WILL REMAIN PARTY LEADER ACCORDING AHRAR. (WAKID, FORMER FREE OFFICER AND MEMBER OF PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, CONSIDERED LESS DOCTRINAIRE THAN MOHIE EL DIN.)

3. WAFD. SAME PAPER REPORTED WAFD LEADER SARAGEDDIN WAS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING COUNTRY LAST WEEK AS RESULT DECREE (HITHERTO UNPUBLICIZED) BANNING FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR THOSE INCLUDED ON SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR'S INTERROGATION LIST. PAPER REPORTED ABDUL FATAH HASSAN'S JUDICIAL APPEAL AGAINST DISMISSAL FROM PARLIAMENT GOING FORWARD AND QUOTED PASHA AS REJECTING PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY (WHICH HAS NOT BEEN OFFERED) FOR HIS PRE-REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE GOVERNMENT INTENT, POLITICAL DEBATE CONTINUES ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS. AHRAR HAS NOT STOPPED ATTACKING PM SALEM FOR HIS HANDLING OF GOVERNMENT. AHALI REEMERGENCE, SHOULD THIS BE PERMITTED, WILL ADD TO DEBATE. EVEN WAFD, DISSOLVED, IS SUCCEEDING IN REACHING PUBLIC WITH ITS CRITICISMS OF GOE DOMESTIC ACTIONS.

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JOURNALISTS UNDER INTERROGA
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